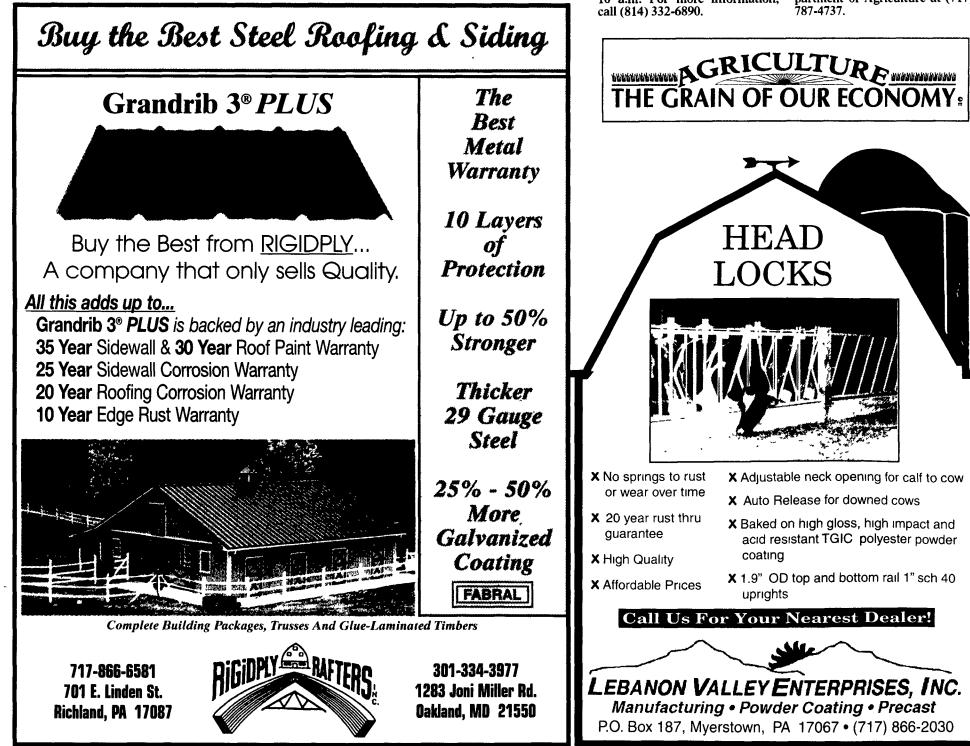
A22-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 5, 2001

'Hello,' From The Lancaster Farming Staff



The editorial staff of Lancaster Farming. In center at desk is Andy Andrews, editor. From left, Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor; Lynn Rossi, market staff: Millie Bunting, market staff; Michelle Ranck, staff writer; and Dave Lefever, staff writer. Photo by Stan Hall



Ridge Administration Announces 2001 Ag Lenders Tour

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On behalf of Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Sam Haves has announced the schedule for the 2001 Ag Lenders Tour.

"Gov. Ridge has continued his commitment to ensuring that our rich agriculture traditions are handed down to the next generation," said Secretary Hayes. "To continue our assistance to farmers, the Department of Agriculture is proud to host the 2001 Ag Lenders Tour as an opportunity for agriculture leaders, community leaders and economic-development agencies to visit top-notch farms and agribusinesses to learn about the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program.

The Department of Agriculture will host regional meetings across the state. At each meeting, there will be a tour of the host operation, an agricultural issues discussion, and a presentation about opportunities available through the loan program.

The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program is designed to assist beginning and first-time farmers in purchasing land, farm equipment, and other capital purchases. By using federal taxexempt mortgage financing, interest rates are reduced. A maximum loan amount of \$250.000 can be granted to a person, entering into an agricultural enterprise for the first time, who meets the qualifications of the program.

The meeting dates, locations, times and contact information are listed below:

• Region 1 — (Clarion, Craw-ford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties) May 22 at Long Acre Potato and Grain Farm, Tionesta, Forest County, 10 a.m. For more information, call (814) 332-6890. • Region 2 — (Cameron, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga and Union counties) May 15 at Broyan Dairy Farm, Berwick, Columbia County, 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (570) 433-2640.

• Region 3 — (Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susque-hanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties) May 24 at Deer Park Lumber, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, 10 a.m. For more information, call (570) 836-2181.

• Region 4 — (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland counties) Already held on May 2. For more information, call (814) 332-6890.

• Region 5 - (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntington, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset counties) May 17 at Morrison Cove Memorial Park, Martinsburg, Blair County, 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (814) 946-7315.

• Region 6 — (Adams, Cum-berland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties) June 5 at Tuscarora Hardwoods, Elliottsburg, Perry County, 10 a.m. For more information, call (717) 725-2570.

• Region 7 — (Berks, Bucks Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill counties) June 12 at AR-Joy Farm, Cochranville, Chester County, 10 a.m. For more information, call (610) 489-1003.

The Ag Lenders Tour is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. For more information about the tour, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at (717)

